1	2	3	4
2000-2001	Tamil Nadu	1	10
	Gujarat	2	
	Andhra Pradesh	2	
	Kerala	1	
	Uttar Pradesh	2	
	Madhya Pradesh	1	
	Karnataka	1	

(b) and (c) As per the Medical Council of India, there are 5 lakh registered allopathic medical practitioners and about 6 lakhs registered practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy which are considered sufficient to take care of health services all over the country including rural areas.

Amendment in Indian Medical Council Act

3984. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Indian Medical Council Act to make it necessary to undergo a screening test in order to get practitioner's licence for foreign-educated doctors coming into the country;

(b) if so, whether the Indian doctors will have to face similar screening test before going to US or UK for starting practice there;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian doctors going to USA and UK have to appear in the USMLE and PLAB tests respectively before registration in those countries.

(c) and (d) The Government have introduced a Bill in Rajya Sabha on 12th March, 2001 to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 to provide for screening test for the Indian Nationals Holding Foreign Medical Qualifications for their registration with the

Medical Council of India/State Medical Councils to practice medicine in India.

High prices of AIDS drugs

3985. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of AIDS patients are unable to purchase the drugs prescribed by the doctors of AIIMS and other Government hospitals in the country due to high prices of these drugs;

(b) if so, the reasons for high prices of these drugs;

(c) whether generic equivalent to these medicines can be manufactured by the Indian companies;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to provide subsidy on such medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir.

(e) Government of India provides funds to State AIDS Control Societies for the treatment of opportunities infections to HIV/AIDS patients in public sector hospitals. All such drugs are being manufactured in the country.

Neglecting Homoeopathic Industry

3986. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are neglecting the homoeopathic industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of steps taken by Government to encourage the homoeopathic industry in the country by conforming to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)?